

CLAIMS:

The listing of claims shown below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The A device of claim 1~~ for treating a bone structure,
comprising:

a first biocompatible rigid or semi-rigid member having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the distal portion having a first plurality of ribs extending therefrom;

a second biocompatible rigid or semi-rigid member having a proximal portion and a distal portion, the distal portion having a second plurality of ribs extending therefrom;

wherein the first and second members have a combined cross-sectional circular profile, and each of the first and second members has a respective individual cross-sectional arcuate profile, the combined cross-sectional profile having a radius that is substantially equal to a radius of curvature of the individual cross-sectional profile, and

wherein the device is configured to be placed in a collapsed state by engaging the first and second pluralities of ribs in an interposed arrangement with the respective proximal portions of the first and second members spaced apart from each other, and in a deployed state by disengaging the first and second pluralities of ribs, with the respective proximal portions of the first and second members spaced moved towards each other.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented - Allowed) A method of treating a bone structure having opposing sides and a compression fracture therebetween, the method comprising:

providing a device with first and second members, each of which has a proximal portion and distal portion and a plurality of ribs extending from the respective distal portions;

placing the device in a collapsed state by engaging the ribs of the respective first and second members in an interposed arrangement with the respective proximal portions of the first and second members spaced apart from each other;

introducing the device within the bone structure while in the collapsed state;

placing the device in a deployed state by disengaging the ribs of the respective first and second members, with the respective proximal portions of the first and second members moved towards each other, wherein the distal portions of the first and second members move in opposite directions to displace the opposing sides of the bone structure in opposite directions.

9. (Original - Allowed) The method of claim 8, wherein the device is placed in the respective collapsed and deployed states by hinging the first and second members relative to each other.

10. (Original - Allowed) The method of claim 8, wherein the first and second pluralities of ribs are flutes.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original - Allowed) The method of claim 8, wherein the first and second members have a combined cross-sectional circular profile, and each of the first and second members has a respective individual cross-sectional arcuate profile, the combined cross-sectional profile having a radius that is substantially equal to a radius of curvature of the individual cross-sectional profile.

13. (Original - Allowed) The method of claim 8, wherein the bone structure is a vertebral body.

14. (Original - Allowed) The method of claim 8, wherein the device is deployed until the compression fracture has been completely reduced.

15. (Original - Allowed) The method of claim 8, further comprising introducing treatment medium into the bone structure after deployment of the device within the bone structure.

16. (Original - Allowed) The method of claim 8, further comprising stabilizing the bone fracture.

17–30 (Cancelled).